

Indian bottomlands. Payment for these takings was typically haphazard and piecemeal. Time and again, the government failed to fairly compensate both tribal and individual land owners for the loss of their property.

One such landowner is Freddy LeBeau. Freddy was born and raised on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation. While serving 4 years in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II, he arranged to purchase 200 acres of land along the Missouri River.

In Freddy's own words he explains, "We live in a poor county, and if I can pay taxes on that land and help the county in that small manner, I would be glad to do that. I thought I was an asset there fighting for my country, and I would remain an asset when I came home in a small way and pay taxes on my land."

Following his service, Freddy returned home and for a time he was able to work his land, raise horses and cattle and start a family. The Pick-Sloan Act changed all that.

The Ohio dam and reservoir flooded over 100,000 acres of Cheyenne River Sioux lands, including Freddy's home. He and many other tribal members were forced to move their families to higher ground and begin again. Like many others, he did not receive a fair price for his loss. And at 83 years old, this World War II veteran says, "I am still looking for a place as good as the place that I lost."

Congress has already acknowledged this injustice and only a few years ago passed legislation to provide just compensation by creating the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Recovery Trust Fund. While this action was commendable, it left one important group behind, tribal members who lost privately owned land, elders now, who owned deeded land at the time it was taken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Current law actually prohibits the tribe from using existing funds to compensate these individuals.

The tribe has recognized this shortcoming and has worked to craft a solution that requires no new expenditures, no new expenditures, and guarantees that the affected tribal elders and their families can be justly compensated for lands taken over a generation ago.

The leadership of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a united South Dakota congressional delegation, and the moving testimony of private landowners like Freddy LeBeau have all contributed to the introduction of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act. This bill would correct a historic wrong and compensate tribal members who have been left behind and treated unjustly for many years.

At 83 years old, Freddy and 33 other tribal elders are still waiting for just compensation. I urge this swift consideration and passage of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARKEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand to oppose the misguided budget amendments that are being presented to us. These amendments will not help a post-Katrina plan, but would only add to the deficit. It would require spending cuts and new tax cuts that would mount up to \$70 billion, cuts that mostly benefit the wealthiest Americans at the expense of the poorest Americans.

If these spending cuts were approved, they would probably do what I would consider to be Draconian cutting. They would cut Medicaid, food stamps, child care support, the earned income tax credit, and supplemental security income.

I have a problem in my City of Los Angeles, and it is a homeless problem. There are over 80,000 homeless individuals that are on our streets, mostly in the evenings. They have problems with alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and mental illness. Over 33 percent of the homeless are mentally ill. And they are homeless. And why?

Because we have cut out the programs that address this population; and not only did we do that, but under the Reagan administration we closed mental health hospitals. Money was to follow the patients into the community, and it never did.

So if we are trying to be fiscally responsible, that means we are being irresponsible to the poorest of Americans. As Americans we cannot allow this to happen. If we are spreading democracy around the world, then we must live up to the principles and the tenets of its provisions. And its provisions say that every American has a right to be a recipient of the social services programs.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot accept the amendments to the budget that are being proposed. They will weaken our homeland, its people, and our security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor to address the House. I can tell you that this week has been quite eventful. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we come every day to the floor to share not only with the Members but the American people what is actually going on in this House, and what is not going on in this House and what should be going on in this House, and it is the House of Representatives.

And there has been a lot going on this week as it relates to the budget. As you know, many Members came to the floor to speak pro and con of this. I will not use the Washington language, but I will use it in a way that everyone can understand: our relooking at the budget and making more cuts from the budget that have already been made.

And when I have been coming to the floor recently, Mr. Speaker, I have been bringing the local publication, the Washington Post to the floor, just to serve as a third-party validator to the arguments that have been made here on the floor. I am proud that our leadership on this side of the aisle, the Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), has stood against the winds of power in saying that there are certain things that we will not do. We who are Democrats on this side, we will not turn our backs on the American people.

We will not turn our backs on the survivors of hurricanes Katrina or Rita. We will not stand idly by and watch this country continue legislatively to go down the tubes because certain people and certain individuals in power would like to see their priorities and their projects and their special interest breaks or opportunities prevail on the backs of the American people.

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I am proud that we have the leadership on this side of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and also the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) to say no. I am proud of the fact that we have men and women in this Congress that are willing to stand up and say no to the majority. I must add, on the majority side who want to see their goals and objectives carried out on behalf of individuals that have suffered.

Now, I have to commend some of my colleagues here and some of my colleagues even on the other side of the aisle for standing up to the leadership